

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS IN KENTUCKY

What is Kentucky's definition of college readiness?

College readiness is the level of preparation a student needs to succeed in credit-bearing courses in college. "Succeed" is defined as completing entry-level courses at a level of understanding and proficiency that prepares the student for subsequent courses. Kentucky's systemwide standards of readiness guarantee students access to credit-bearing coursework without the need for remediation in high school or college coursework or intervention programming.

What is Kentucky's definition of career readiness?

Career readiness is the level of preparation a high school graduate needs to proceed to the next step in a chosen career, whether that is postsecondary coursework, industry certification, or entry into the workforce. According to the Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE), career readiness includes core academic skills and the ability to apply those skills to concrete situations to function in the workplace and in routine daily activities. Employability skills and technical, job-specific skills related to a specific career pathway are essential in any career area.

What are the standards of readiness?

Most definitions of college readiness include some predictive statement about how well students will do in relevant courses based on national assessments, such as the ACT or SAT. "Success" is defined by ACT as 50 percent or higher probability of a student earning a B or higher in the corresponding college course or courses and 75 percent or higher probability of earning a C or higher in the corresponding college course or courses.

What ACT and scores determine college readiness for Kentucky students?

The Kentucky systemwide standards of college readiness are ACT scores of 18 for English, 20 for reading, and a mathematics score of 19 for some introductory courses in mathematics (often statistics or an applied mathematics course), 22 for college algebra, and 27 for calculus. The Kentucky systemwide standards of readiness guarantee students access to credit-bearing coursework without the need for transitional, developmental education, or supplemental courses or programs. Established common SAT and placement test benchmark scores will also be used.

Why does Kentucky have three ACT college readiness standards for mathematics?

A three-tiered approach to mathematics was used to establish mathematics readiness levels for various fields of study. For example, a survey of Kentucky institutions found that most majors in the liberal arts and social sciences fields do not require college algebra. A mathematics readiness score for those majors was investigated and subsequently established based on student performance in the liberal arts mathematics courses. Typically, one-half of all graduates were in liberal arts or social sciences fields. The ACT score of 22 for college algebra reflects both Kentucky and national success data. A third tier for calculus readiness is typically listed as a course prerequisite. Prior to establishing a calculus readiness level, each Kentucky institution established its own ACT prerequisite. The calculus readiness score reflects a score that guarantees placement in an entry-level calculus course at any state-supported institution.

What happens if a student does not meet the college readiness standards in any area?

Kentucky students not meeting systemwide standards of readiness can demonstrate needed competency levels through placement testing at the college or university or during high school senior year transition and intervention programs.

Where can I find more information?

<http://cpe.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/E1DA3E91-E750-4A3F-AF1B-DFD858079CC7/0/ACTandSystemwidePlacementStandards.pdf>

<http://www.cpe.ky.gov/policies/academicinit/deved/>

<http://www.education.ky.gov/kde/instructional+resources/secondary+and+virtual+learning/transitional+courses.htm>

SENATE BILL 1 of 2009 (Kentucky's Unbridled Learning Initiative)

What is Senate Bill 1 (2009)?

Senate Bill 1, signed March 2009 by Governor Beshear, is a significant piece of education legislation that requires a revision of K-12 academic standards to increase the rigor and focus the content of K-12 education. The goal is to align K-12 and postsecondary expectations and increase the number of high school graduates ready for college.

What activities have taken place to implement Senate Bill 1?

A Senate Bill 1 Steering Committee, representing state education and General Assembly leaders, provided oversight and guidance for the implementation of a comprehensive process to revise the standards, create a professional development model to ensure the standards are incorporated into instruction, and develop a set of unified strategies to promote college and career readiness. In February 2010, Kentucky became the first state to adopt the nationally recognized common core college and career readiness standards for English and mathematics at a joint meeting of the Kentucky Board of Education, Council on Postsecondary Education, and Education Professional Standards Board. Since that time Kentucky Adult Education has adopted and will begin implementing the same college and career readiness content standards. Kentucky actively participates in multi-state consortia to develop high-quality assessments around the common core standards. In May 2010, KDE and CPE developed a set of unified strategies to promote college readiness and degree completion for underprepared students. Content frameworks for science were released in July 2011 and social studies content frameworks are being developed. The Council designed online informational modules and supported workshops, webinars, and campus faculty development opportunities to facilitate the implement of the standards in content area coursework and teacher and educator preparation programs. Additionally, postsecondary faculty supported the professional development of in-service teachers through the Kentucky Leadership Networks.

What are the unified strategies for promoting college readiness and degree completion in Kentucky?

Senate Bill 1 called upon KDE, in collaboration with CPE, to develop a unified strategy to reduce college remediation rates and increase graduation rates of postsecondary students with readiness needs. In May 2010, the unified strategy and implementation plan was developed around four key strategies: (1) accelerated learning opportunities; (2) secondary intervention programs; (3) college and career readiness advising; and (4) college persistence and degree completion. Implementation of many of the unified strategies is already underway. Statewide placement and readiness work teams defined key learning outcomes for developmental, transitional, and supplemental courses that align with the common core standards. A set of college readiness indicator scores was developed to define readiness based on the learning outcomes. Beginning in fall 2011, the learning outcomes and scores will be used by schools and colleges to design intervention programming and courses for students not meeting target scores. Students meeting benchmark scores will be guaranteed placement into credit-bearing coursework without need of additional placement testing or remediation. High school transitional courses in reading, writing, and mathematics were developed by KDE and CPE in 2010-11 to allow students not meeting benchmarks to build needed skills while in high school. A College and Career Readiness Advising Tool Kit was collaboratively developed for use by secondary teachers and educators. A catalog of college readiness strategies is available for use by colleges and universities, educational cooperatives, and P-16 councils in their efforts to promote college and career readiness.

Where can I find more information?

[http://www.education.ky.gov/kde/instructional+resources/secondary+and+virtual+learning/senate+bill+1+\(2009\)+college+and+career+readiness.htm](http://www.education.ky.gov/kde/instructional+resources/secondary+and+virtual+learning/senate+bill+1+(2009)+college+and+career+readiness.htm)

<http://www.cpe.ky.gov/policies/academicinit/deved/>

<http://kycorestandards.org>